

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE

## Governor of the State of Texas

NO. 41-393

REPRODUCED FROM THE  
HOLDINGS OF THE  
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I have vetoed House Bill 727, passed at the recently-adjourned regular session of the 50th Legislature, and I am filing the bill with the Secretary of State.

As originally introduced in the House, this bill contained excellent regulatory provisions which would strengthen liquor enforcement and control. It would have given more authority to our very able and efficient Texas Liquor Control Board.

The Senate Amendment to the bill in the last days of the legislative session making permissive the voting of wet precincts in some 42 dry counties precipitated a controversy and serious question.

Without this Amendment I would have heartily approved and signed the bill.

This Amendment caused a sharp division of opinion on the bill in the Legislature. The amended bill passed the Senate 16 to 14, and the House 61 to 54. This was a warmly contested measure, and unfortunately came before the Legislature in the closing days of the Session when time did not permit the mature and careful study and discussion to which the Amendment was entitled. I agree, with the proponents of the Amendment, that it is logical, fair, and probably legal to provide for voting wet precincts in dry counties since dry precincts can be voted in wet counties.

However, it is my opinion that it is not to the present or future best interests of Texas, Texas people, and Texas institutions that the extension of liquor and beer sales into a precinct or precincts of some 42 counties that are dry now be made possible. This provision has brought widespread protests from the dry counties of Texas. These protests point out that the ease of transportation in these modern days would result in wet precincts nullifying county-wide local option.

Unfortunately, I cannot veto the questionable part of this bill, the Amendment to the House Bill, and let the wise regulatory provisions of the bill become the law. The bill must either be approved or vetoed as a whole.

I, therefore, deem it best to veto the bill.

Furthermore, the hundreds of letters I have received, especially those written in pencil on tablet paper, strengthen my conviction that the veto of this bill will remove the spectre of the emotional upheaval that accompanies prohibition as an issue in our elections for public office in Texas. The years immediately ahead in Texas will pose many important problems in the growth of our State and its wise government. Those who offer themselves as candidates for the Legislature and other important State and local offices should be chosen on qualifications of complete fitness for office.

We need public officials of character, ability, vision, and sincerity of wholesome purpose for the public welfare as we further the post-war development of our great State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the Seal of State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this the 20th day of June, A. D., 1947.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

*Paul H. Brown*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Robert B. Taylor*  
GOVERNOR OF TEXAS

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